

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 15, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and, in view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

I. Summary of Claims

Claims 15-21 are currently pending in the application, with claim 15 being the sole independent claim. Claims 1-14 are cancelled and claims 15-21 are added, in accordance with the above amendments.

II. Discussion of Claims

The Office Action includes an objection to original claims 4, 6, 7, and 9 as being based upon a rejected base claim (i.e., independent claim 1). In addition, the Office Action indicated that these claims would be allowable if amended to incorporate limitations of the base claim. Independent claim 15 substantially incorporates each of the recitations of original claims 1 and 6. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 15 is allowable.

New claims 16, 17, and 18 respectively correspond with original claims 4, 7, and 9 and should also be allowable. New claims 19, 20, and 21 respectively correspond with original claims 2, 3, and 5. Although original claims 2, 3, and 5 were withdrawn, they should now be allowable as they depend from an allowable independent claim.

Based upon the above discussion, the Applicants submit that each of claims 15-21 are allowable.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in a condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the rejections be withdrawn and that this application now be allowed.

This Amendment is being timely filed by facsimile transmission on February 25, 2005. Should additional fees or an extension of time be deemed necessary for consideration of this Amendment, such fees or extension are hereby requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account number 19-0733 for the payment of the requisite fee. If anything further

is desirable to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned representative at (503) 425-6800.

Respectfully submitted,

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